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March 1, 2016

Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
Connecticut House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: House Bill 5230**  
**Position: Strong Support**

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of Fertile Action, I write in support of HB 5230. This bill provides for insurance coverage of fertility preservation services when future fertility will be put at-risk by treatment of a disease such as cancer.

I founded Fertile Action three weeks into my own breast cancer diagnosis when my insurance denied my request for fertility preservation coverage despite the fact that my chemotherapy treatment gave me up to a 90% chance of infertility. I was 31-years-old and used my American Express card to pay for freezing my eggs. Thank goodness I did because I was left infertile and suffered four miscarriages before using my frozen embryos. I am now the proud mother of a two-year-old who wouldn't exist without fertility preservation.

There are five key reasons we support this bill:

1. All young adults touched by cancer face infertility as a side effect of treatment.
2. One-third of patients, if not able to obtain fertility preservation services, choose less effective medical care in an attempt to preserve their fertility, often resulting in worse health outcomes.
3. Insurance covers ALL other side effects like wigs and breast reconstruction.
4. Patients who did not have the option for fertility preservation have significantly worse scores on quality of life measures than those who had the option. It is well-documented *infertile* cancer survivors have higher rates of depression.
5. Due to the small numbers of people in their reproductive years who need this care, the cost will be small and spread across all insured persons.

HB 5230 will improve the lives of patients dealing with cancer and set an important precedent in other states. Should you have any questions regarding our position on HB 5230, please contact me [alice@fertileaction.org](mailto:alice@fertileaction.org) or 310-927-1017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice K. Crisci".

Alice K. Crisci



P.O. Box 3526  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
P 877 276 5951 F 310 356 6089  
w [www.fertileaction.org](http://www.fertileaction.org)

Founder, Fertile Action

HELPING WOMEN TOUCHED BY CANCER BECOME MOTHERS

A project of Community Partners | TAX ID: 95-4302067